Superior Court of Arizona

En Banc

in Maricopa County

Vol. 2 No. 4 February 1998 Newsletter of the Superior Court Law Library

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En Banc

Newsletter of the Superior Court Law Library

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Law Library News

□ Speakers Bureau

At February's monthly bench meeting, a new program called CourtTalk was introduced. The purpose of the program is to educate and inform the community about the justice system.

Working with the court's Public Information Officers, the Law Library will be offering assistance to judges and other court personnel when they are called upon to speak at community functions. The Library will be collecting and maintaining justice related speeches, current event type articles and any law related statistics. For those of you who cringe at the thought of public speaking, we will include some articles on how to overcome stagefright.

Please keep in mind that the *Court Informer* is also an excellent source for retrieving articles on a particular topic. Back issues are available for anyone who is interested.

□ Training Opportunities

Looking to learn the basics of legal research and earn COJET credit? The reference staff is pleased to offer court personnel four legal research classes this quarter. The first, On-Line and On-Shelf: How to Research in the Law Library, premiered last month. The class features included an overview of the library's resources and basic search techniques for finding cases and statutes using both the library's networked computers and printed materials on the library's shelves.

Also included was an introduction to our self-guided tour, *The Images of Liberty*, a

pictorial history of the Statue of Liberty. Beginning this month, *Electronic Legal Research* will provide further search techniques for finding the law via computer, through CD-ROM and Internet sources. Class dates are Wednesday, February 25th and Tuesday, March 10th, both from 9-10:30 a.m.

And, in case you missed it, *On-Line and On-Shelf* (held on February 10th) will be repeated in the near future. Classes are held in the Law Library's on-line room on the second floor. Space is limited, so please call the Training Office to register.

Keep in mind, as always, the reference staff offers one-on-one training for attorneys, judges, support staff, and the public. These individual training sessions will teach you how to use our computer resources. Please call the Reference Desk at 506-3681 to schedule a session.

□ Library Staff

Karen Yoxall is the newest Law Library employee. She is a Law Library Assistant working at the Information Desk on the Plaza Level. She is enjoying the work, but really looks forward to becoming much more efficient in assisting patrons!

Karen grew up in New Jersey and obtained a B.A. in French from St. Michael's College in Vermont. She spent nine years in the U.S. Air Force, navigating on the KC-135 air refueler and teaching celestial navigation. Her final assignment was to Okinawa, Japan before exiting the military and moving to Arizona.

She earned a Masters in Education at A.S.U. but - not having masochistic tendencies - recently decided against teaching elementary school. "Plan B" is

library work, possibly focusing on children's literature in the long run. Karen and her husband just celebrated a first anniversary and are in the process of building an adobe home in the desert.

☐ Letters From the Mediterranean

Greetings from the West Bank. It is now the beginning of February and we have seen the end of the Muslim feast of Ramadan and a lot of rain here at Birzeit University. The rain is not unusual for this time of year, however, the 6 inches of snow we had in early January really shook the country up. Fortunately it only stayed on the ground for one day as the country does not have the infrastructure to deal with snow. It was pretty while it lasted though.

Things continue to progress slowly here in the library. In early December the director of the library resigned. This is going to be a very good thing for the library although at the moment the place is in a state of chaos. We are fortunate enough to have a good replacement for the director on hand. The director of the Law Center Library will become director here in the main library. Hopefully her skills will allow the library to move forward and begin offering new services.

Although funding for Palestinian Universities continues to be weak, the library is making every attempt to provide access to some of the new electronic resources that are becoming increasingly available. To this end, the staff have been working with me to develop an Internet web page that we hope to have up by the end of this month. This page will provide the faculty and students with access to many of the free sources of information that are available via the World Wide Web. It is hoped that the library will be getting a CD-ROM tower and some CD indexes, but due to funding problems, this is unlikely. The library is fortunate to have such

easy access to the Internet. Of all the Universities on the West Bank, Birzeit is the only one with well developed access to the Internet. They connect using a satellite that allows them to maintain Internet connectivity. This was a major issue for the school in previous years as they kept losing the connection due to political restrictions and people stealing the cabling. For an interesting look at the Palestinian perspective of the world and education, and hopefully a look at the new library web page very soon. check out www.birzeit.edu.

☐ Horizon

The Library staff continues to work on the *Horizon* system implementation. Staff members have now bar coded a significant portion of the collection, a lengthy process, and will continue to work on this aspect of the project over the coming months. This means staff, with PCs, will be working in the stacks, so if you are on the second floor of the Library, watch out for PC carts and cables. We appreciate your patience.

Library staff have also begun to check in new materials using the system's serials control module. Along with the bar coding work, this means you may see more and more titles in the online catalog with detailed information, such as the most recent issue received.

With the assistance of Judicial Information Services staff, the Library is providing access to the *Horizon* catalog for judicial officers and Court staff over the Court's network. Contact the Information Desk (506-3945) to arrange for Library staff to set up your PC.

The Library has also implemented WebPAC, the World Wide Web accessible version of the public access catalog, making the catalog as well as other databases available over the Internet to anyone who has a web browser and Internet

connection. Point your web browser to the Law Library's home page at http://www.maricopa.gov/lawlibrary and click on the WebPAC icon.

Bar News

□ CLE Information

In conjunction with the State Bar of Arizona, LEXIS/NEXIS will cosponsor "Anatomy of a Computer: PC's From the Inside Out." In this "non-technical, no-jargon seminar, with a focus on the Internet," you'll learn how to use computers in the practice law. Scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 1998 from 9:00-4:45 at the Radisson Resort Scottsdale, this seminar may qualify you for up to 5.5 CLE hours of ethics.

The seminar will cover such topics as computer terminology, basic computer components, organization of files into directories, and a "special guided tour" through the Internet.

The instructor, Frederic S. Baum, is a computer education specialist and has served as co-chair of the Task Force on Technology and the Practice of Law. He will provide information that will help the participants to decide which PC to buy, how much it will cost and even where to buy it. If you already own a PC, he will provide you with the latest information on up-grades and addons.

"Anatomy of a Computer" will take the mystery out of computers and assumes that the attendees have no prior knowledge of computers.

The Radisson Resort Scottsdale will be the site of another State Bar Seminar on March 12 and 13. "Bottom Line: Get What Your Client is Due: Arizona Civil Remedies" will earn you up to 10 MCLE credits including an hour of ethics. As a bonus, you will receive a voucher for a 10% discount on the second edition of *Arizona Civil Remedies*.

The seminar will be presented by the ten authors who will share their expertise on prejudgment seizure of property, declaratory judgments, landlord-tenant relationships, injunctions, foreclosures and bankruptcy. Since collection of a debt is one of a lawyer's basic functions, you are guaranteed to "leave this seminar with the knowledge - the power - to get what's due to your clients!"

Superior Court Update

□ Office of the Court Interpreter

The Office of the Court Interpreter. located on the sixth floor of the West Court Building, is one of only two court interpreter offices in the state. The other lies in Pima County. While other counties may have an interpreter, their duties are often divided. In Pinal and Cochise counties, the court interpreter is also the court law librarian. With the exception of interpreters for the hearing impaired, interpreters are not governed by statute, have no quality controls. and no licenses or certifications are required on the state level. Each county superior court sets its own standards for interpreters.

In our court, there are fourteen interpreters and one translator. The translators work is written while the interpreters' work is done orally. The interpreters are appointed to a case by the court and are assigned specific roles in that case. They may have to go into the jail, attend a deposition at an attorney's office, go with the person to a psychiatric evaluation, meet with their probation officer, attend hearings or even meet with victims.

Court interpreters' assignments can be criminal, domestic relations, juvenile, mental health or even civil. Civil cases are often limited to testimony because of the time it takes a civil case to work its way through the system.

Spanish is by far the language that is most in demand followed by Vietnamese, Navajo, Chinese, Korean and Arabic. Many layman believe that if you speak a language than you can be an Interpreter. This is an assumption that troubles the interpreter. It is much more than just speaking. Think of all the different dialects there are in the English language. For those who speak the same language, sometimes words can have different meanings. The person for whom the interpreting is done, may not understand a concept especially a legal one.

For more information on interpreting, take a look at "Court Interpreters: Articles and Books," starting on page 7 of the newslettter.

□ Did You Know?

Find out how much you actually know about our state's history.

Holbrook Sheriff Frank Wathon drew a personal reprimand from President McKinley in 1899 for sending out fancy invitations to a hanging promising "everything will be done to make the surroundings cheerful and the execution a success."

Court in Prescott in the 1870's was conducted by Judge (Alfred) Noyes and Judge (Charles) Silent.

There being more than 600 saloons in the Arizona Territory during the 1890's, the first "paved" street in Phoenix was made of beer bottles planted bottom up.

G.P. Hunt was elected Governor of Arizona a record six times before being defeated by Republican John C. Phillips in 1928.

Although legend says that no one

ever escaped Yuma Prison (1875-1909), there were actually 26 escapees who were never recaptured.

Source: Brooks, James F. "On the Arizona Legal Scene." Arizona Republic, various issues. Reprinted with permission.

From Other Courts

Remember the days when to check case information each court had to be called separately? Now with a system designed and managed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, users can find basic information about most civil, criminal, bankruptcy and appellate cases filed in federal court.

The system is searchable by name, Social Security number or nature of the case using the U.S. Party/Case Index. Some courts will post both current and historic information. The Prisoner Litigation Index will help courts in tracking frivolous, malicious or those "failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted" cases. (The Prisoner Litigation Reform Act of 1995 prohibits prisoners from filing any petitions if three such cases have already been dismissed.)

The U.S. Party/Case Index is the latest development in the PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) system. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts was created in 1939 and has offered services through the PACER system for 8 years.

The index is accessible by modem 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As of December 10, 1997, the date of this news release, user fees are \$.60 per minute. To obtain the required log-in and password, call the PACER Service Center at 1-800-676-6856. To see a complete copy of the news release, log in to the World Wide Web at:

http://www.uscourts.gov/Press_Releases/phone.htm.

Electronic Resources

□ Database Review

This month, check out pages 8 and 9 of the newsletter for a listing of the Law Library's Networked Databases.

☐ Internet Site Reviews

The White House Virtual Library http://www.whitehouse.gov

Haven't had enough of the latest presidential sex scandal? Want to hear what the President has to say about it? A visit to this web site will answer these questions and more.

You can read about the accomplishments of both the President and Vice-President along with information about their families. "White House History and Tours" will allow you to view past presidents and first families; the "White House Help Desk" answers frequently asked questions and "The Briefing Room" has the day's releases and the President's Saturday Radio Address.

A real neat feature of this web site is the "Interactive Citizen's Handbook." By clicking on the handbook, you can find information on any federal agency or commission along with information about such topics as employment, travel and tourism, arts, libraries and museums. If you access the "United States Information Agency" from there, vou'll find the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence in either English, Spanish or French. This portion of the site also gives information about the size and population of all the states, the date each state entered the union, capitals, largest cities, state birds and flowers. There is even a state capital game and a state flag game.

Last but not least, you'll find another site called "Foreign Languages For Travelers." Want to translate a particular word? Following the steps

outlined you can select the language you speak and then select the language you want to learn. Overall this web site is filled with lots of fun and interesting information.

Promises Kept: The 1997 Tax Act http://www.dtonline.com/promies/cover.htm

Just in time for tax season, this site offers a plain-language review of the 1997 tax changes. Prefaced with a legal disclaimer, the firm of Delotte & Touche tells you how to make use of the recent tax changes without putting you to sleep. They make use of charts and examples with a "very readable" summary of all the changes. The text covers tax cuts for individuals and principal tax increases. There is also a "Tips and Strategies" column with help for families, capital gains, IRA's and small business tax cuts.

□ Publications of Interest on the Internet

Empirical Study of Class Actions in Four Federal District Courts http://www.fjc.gov/CIVILLIT/rule23.html

This site takes an empirical look at policy issues involving class actions. The Advisory Committee on Civil Rules looked at four districts around the country for the report. The districts involved were: Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern Florida, Northern Illinois, and Northern California. While these districts were selected in order to have a large sample of class action suits, the conclusions drawn will no doubt be valid for any metropolitan district. One myth that the report shatters is that judges certify class actions before looking at the merits of the litigation. The report shows that judges often rule on motions to dismiss before ruling as to class certification and before settlement.

New Materials in the Library

□ Article Reviews

Méndez, Miguel A. "Lawyers, Linguists, Story-Tellers, and Limited English-Speaking Witnesses." 27 New Mexico Law Review 77 (1997).

In this article. Stanford Professor Méndez examines when a limited English-speaking witness should have an interpreter. Drawing on legal and linguistic models, he depicts the witness as storyteller, though a storyteller under hardship. From both viewpoints, "storytelling" in the courtroom differs from storytelling among friends or family. A good courtroom "story" follows a structure determined by one set of listeners as part of an overall strategy to convey certain information, and answers only specific questions. Unlike conversations, the lawyers as listeners also decide the important details and seek to discredit the narrator. Méndez shows that the question and answer format of the witness's testimony places greater linguistic demands on the witness than on ordinary story-tellers as well.

These added difficulties in story-telling make it more difficult for limited English-speaking witnesses to tell their stories, and for the trial to achieve the goal of accurate fact-finding. Thus, Méndez argues that for a fair trial, the judge must develop an effective test for whether an interpreter is needed for speakers of limited English.

Méndez considers current common law and statutory approaches to determine the need for a witness interpreter, and the drawbacks with each. Most judicial tests fail to recognize that while proceedings interpretation is for the benefit of the litigant, witness interpretation is for the benefit of the trial as a whole. The Federal Court Interpreters' Act of 1978 and most state laws accept the necessity of interpreters, but still fail to establish which witnesses need interpreters. To remedy these problems, Méndez suggests judges favor the use of an interpreter in doubtful cases, place the burden of

proof on the opposing party, decide interpreter issues before trial, and provide a broad, easily administed linguistic test. Approaching the problem from the linguist's view as well as the lawyer's, Professor Méndez provides an intriguing discussion of the need for certain witness-interpreters, and the guidelines that should determine it.

Recent Court Decisions

The following two cases are included to show how other states are dealing with issues that have been newsworthy in our state.

Doe v. Attorney General, 426 *Mass.* 136 (1997).

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts has held that a person convicted of indecent assault and battery, and who was therefor automatically classified under state law as a level one sex offender, must be provided a hearing before he could be subjected to the state's sex offender registration and notification provisions. The court found that neither the crime of indecent assault and battery itself, nor the facts leading to the plaintiff's conviction, necessarily meant that the plaintiff was a threat to minors or other persons that the registration and notifications provisions were intended to protect. Under these circumstances, the court held that failure to provide the plaintiff a hearing violated the procedural due process requirements of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights.

Claremont School District v. Governor, (December 17, 1997).

The New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled that New Hampshire's system for funding the state's schools does not meet that state's constitutional guarantee of an adequate education in the public schools. New Hampshire's public education funding system relied on real property taxes, which the court

determined were state taxes having the primary purpose of financing public education. The court then found that as structured, property taxes were not reasonable and proportionate across the state, requiring residents of property-poor school districts to incur higher tax rates than those in property-rich school districts in violation of a state contitutional provision mandating that taxes be proportionate and reasonable.

Recent Legislation

With the introduction of HB 2518, A.R.S. §41-121 may be amended to include provisions for electronic and digital signatures. An electronic signature is defined as "an electronic or digital method of identification that is executed or adopted by a person with the intent to be bound by or to authenticate a record," while a digital signature "means a type of electronic signature that transforms a message through the use of an asymmetric cryptosystem." The 1998 second regular session of the legislature has set an implementation date of January 1, 2002.

The bill dictates that the Secretary of State shall consult with the Government Information Technology Agency (GIOA), Department of Administration (DOA) and the State Treasurer to establish standards for the use of such signatures by state agencies, commissions and boards.

The Secretary of State is given further authority of "establish a demonstration project for esignatures to encourage economic development and to develope an efficient way to deliver government services to the public while attaining a high level of security." These demonstration projects may be established with governmental or private entities and allows for user fees to "minimize the expenditure of public monies."

You can track the progress of the

projects by reading the annual reports which are due by November 15 of each year.

Meanwhile, two digital signature bills have also been introduced in Congress. HR2991 - the Electronic Commerce Enhancement Act of 1997 - would require federal government to begin accepting digitally signed electronic forms and payments within 36 months of enactment. The bill would be applicable to the federal government, but would not preempt other state laws and requires that federal government technical standards be compatible with industry standards. The Office of Management and Budget would be responsible for establishing technical standards and guidelines for accepting certificates, whether issued by a federal agency or by an accredited "trusted third party."

The Electronic Financial Services Efficiency Act of 1997 (HR2937) would establish a licensing body responsible for registering authentication services providers and establishing authentication and association membership standards.

For additional resources on digital signatures and related topics, see the Law Library's bibliography on Electronic Filing:

http://www.maricopa.gov/lawlibrary/docs/efile.html
Also see Web Counsel, LLC's Digital
Signature Links, which includes
federal, state, and international
resources compiled by Massimo Iori,
a member of the Connecticut
committee drafting a Connecticut
digital signature law.

http://www.webcounsel.com/digsig.htm

□ Contributors

Editor:Susan Armstrong Sarah Andeen Michelle Dyer-Hurdon Valerie Lerma Karen Ruiz Richard Teenstra

□ Recently Received Books

Antieau, Chester J.

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West Group
KF4550 .A75 1997

Ashley, Stephen S. Bad Faith Actions: Liability & Damages, 2nd ed. West Group KF1301.5.I58 A85

Beale, Sara Grand Jury Law and Practice, 2d West Group KF9642 .B435

Bergman, Paul The Criminal Law Handbook Nolo Press KF9619.6 .B47 1997

Catherall, John Corporate Tax Digest, 3rd ed. Warren Gorham & Lamont KF6460.3 .F87 1997

Gabinet, Leon
Tax Aspects of Marital Dissolution,
2d
West Group
KF6333 .W742

Start-Up & Emerging Companies: Planning, Financing & Operating the Successful Business Law Journal Seminars Press

Heller, Pauline B.
Federal Bank Holding Company Law
Law Journal Seminars Press
KF1017 .H45

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Answer Book, 2nd ed.
Panel Publishers
KF532.7 .M47 1996

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Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
Litigation: The Law of Sect. 1983, 4th
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West Group
KF1325.C58 N34

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KF1610.Z95 S53 1997

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Legal Guide for Starting & Running a
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Nolo Press
KF1659.Z9 S76 1997

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Figliulo, James R. "Breaking the Language Barrier." 10 *Litigation* 32 (Winter 1984).

Gardner, Michael and Lynn W. Davis. "Justicia Para Todos:

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"Report of the Oregon Supreme Court Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in The Judicial System." 73 Oregon Law Review 823 (1994).

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"State Courts Work To Ensure That Nothing Is Lost In Translation." 1 Center Court 1 (Fall/Winter 1996).

"Supreme Court Task Force Studies Interpreter And Translation Services." 116 New Jersey Law Journal 1 (September 19, 1985).

Valdes, Guadalupe. "When Does a Witness Need an Interpreter? Preliminary Guidelines For Establishing Language Competence and Incompetence." 3 La Raza Law Journal 1-27 (Spring 1990).

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□ Networked Databases

Internet

The Library provides patrons with access to the Internet, using Netscape Navigator. Patrons accessing the Internet must adhere to the Library's Internet policy.

Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw

The Library provides access to Lexis/Nexis or Westlaw for those patrons who have their own accounts with Lexis or West. To set up an account please contact the vendors directly.

ALR 3rd, 4th, 5th and Federal Annotations for federal and state case law published by Thompson Legal Publishing. Updated quarterly.

AmJur2d

A legal encyclopedia which includes case cites. Updated quarterly.

AmJur Legal Forms

Legal forms searchable by topic and word. Updated quarterly.

AmJur Pleading and Practice Forms

Pleading and practice forms searchable by topic and keyword. Updated quarterly.

Court Technology Bulletin Index and full text of the Court

Technology Bulletin.

Index to Legal Periodicals

Subject, author and title searching in Wilson's Index to Legal Periodicals. Updated monthly.

Law Library Catalog

This is the index to books, journals, and other publications owned by the Law Library.

LE2d Supreme Court Cases (LE2d) Contains Supreme Court decisions published by Lawyer's Cooperative. Updated quarterly.

LegalTrac

Indexes law reviews and journals by

subject, author or title. Updated monthly.

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory

Contains a listing of lawyers in the United States, searchable by name, state, city, type of practice, etc. Located on the Internet.

National Law Journal New York Law Journal

Contains the full text of both of these widely read publications, including news, columns, editorials, decision summaries, and legal notices. Updated quarterly.

9th Circuit Cases

Contains 9th Circuit cases from the Federal Reporter, Federal Reporter 2d, Federal Reporter 3d, and the 9th Circuit Table of Cases. Updated monthly.

PAIS International

Covers the subject areas of public policy, social policy, and the social sciences in general. PAIS indexes a variety of sources, including journal articles, books, government documents, and reports of public and private organizations.

Shepard's Citations

The Library has the following databases, updated monthly with daily updates provided via the Internet:

Arizona Citations
Bankruptcy Citations
California Citations
Federal Citations
Federal Supplement Citations
Federal Statutes Citations
Lawyers Edition Citations
Pacific Citations
Supreme Court Reporter Citations
United States Reports

UCC Search

Contains the annotated version of the UCC and the UCC bulletin. Updated monthly.

United Nations Master Treaty Index United States Treaty Index These two databases contain

indexes to the international treaties and agreements entered into by the United States since 1776 and the international treaties and agreements published by the United Nations beginning with volume 751 of the UNTS.

West's Arizona CD-ROMs

Contains the Arizona Reports, Arizona Revised Statutes, Arizona Revised Statutes Index, Arizona Administrative Code, Arizona Attorney General Opinions, Arizona Legislative Service, and Arizona Court Orders. Updated quarterly, except the Administrative Code (yearly).

West's Bankruptcy Library

Contains Bankruptcy Cases, Bankruptcy Digest, Bankruptcy Evidence Manual, and Bankruptcy Annotated Code. Rules & Forms.

West's California CD-ROMS

Contains West's Annotated California Codes, California Session Laws, California Court Rules, and California Orders.

West's CFR

Contains the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Updated quarterly.

West's Federal Practice & Procedure (Wright & Miller)

Contains a key word searchable version of *Wright & Miller's Federal Practice and Procedure*. Updated quarterly.

West's Restatements

Contains all of the *Restatements of Law*. Updated quarterly.

West's USCA

Contains the *United States Code Annotated* published by West Publishing Company. Updated quarterly.